

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

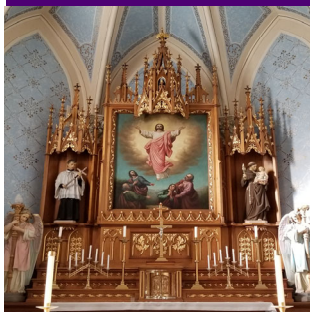
PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



Website: www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org

Parish Office Hours:

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-467-3351

Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110

busadmin@ascensionnya.org

Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—3pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson952-856-1051

busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org

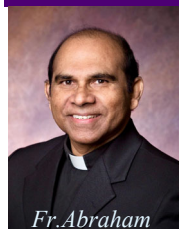
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Fourth Sunday In Advent – December 20 & 21, 2025



Fr. Abraham

God is With Us, Do not be Afraid

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Matthew 1:18–24) reminds us that God takes charge of our lives and that we are invited to surrender to the divine will. When the angel appeared to Joseph, he said, “*Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary, your wife, into your home.*”

Do not be afraid. These words echo throughout Scripture. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah not to be afraid. He said the same to Mary. The shepherds heard these words from the angels. Jesus spoke to Simon Peter and the other disciples not to be afraid after their nets nearly burst with fish when they followed his instructions. The disciples were told not to be afraid when they heard the Father’s voice at the Transfiguration. And Mary Magdalene and the other Mary heard these same words when they encountered the empty tomb. Joseph is told, “*Do not be afraid,*” because the Child conceived in Mary is Emmanuel - “*God with us.*”

St. Paul speaks from the depth of his own experience when he proclaims: “*If God is for us, who can be against us?*” and “*I am convinced that neither death, nor life... nor present things, nor future things... nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” (Romans 8:31, 38). If God is truly with us, whom shall we fear?

Joseph was confused and afraid, just as we often are. Yet he trusted God’s mysterious ways and discovered blessings far beyond anything he could have planned. We, too, must trust the Lord to remove our fears. So many of us are afraid—afraid to trust, afraid to love, afraid to live, afraid to help. We face financial struggles, job insecurity, family tensions, health concerns, and the suffering of loved ones. But like St. Joseph, let us trust Emmanuel, “God with us.” God is at work in our lives. When we become aware of his presence, we can then carry that presence to others.

Christmas is a time for love, not a time for fear. We must trust God to protect and develop our life and love. Can we love others as they deserve to be loved? Or will we be hurt in return? These may well have been Joseph’s questions as he wrestled in his sleep - until he heard the angel say, “*Do not be afraid.*” When Joseph took the step from fear to trust, the world received its Savior.

There is hardly a better way to prepare for Christmas on this Fourth Sunday of Advent than to imitate Joseph and Mary - to obey God willingly, to remain hopeful, and to trust even when life appears uncertain.

Wishing you a Blessed and Joyful Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: ‘For the Christmas Gifts of Peace, Love and Joy to all.’

Parish Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Bernard and Ascension, united through Baptism, redeemed by Christ’s death and resurrection, and strengthened by his Word and Eucharist, are called to follow him by nurturing a rich sacramental and spiritual life, supporting strong Catholic faith formation and fostering fellowship and community.



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Monday	Dec. 22		No Mass:
Tuesday	Dec. 23	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Dec. 24	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 4:00pm Mass: 6:30pm
Thursday	Dec. 25	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am
Friday	Dec. 26	ASC.	NO Mass:
Saturday	Dec. 27	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 4:30pm Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Dec. 28	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Adoration: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Ascension: Dec. 24th- 4:00pm
Dec. 25th - 8:00am

St. Bernard: Dec. 24th- 6:15pm
Dec. 25th - 10:00am

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God:

Ascension: Dec. 31st - 4:00pm
St. Bernard: Jan. 1st - 9:00am

Please note there will be no Wednesday Morning Mass, Confession, or Adoration on both December 24th and December 31st, at St. Bernard.

The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday December 24th and Thursday December 25th for Christmas, and on January 1st for New Years Day. Ascension office will be open from 10-2 on December 31st. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Faith Formation Update:

We are once again asking you to prayerfully consider donating to our **STBAFF sponsorship program**. Over the years we have raised over \$57,000 to support our Faith Formation program. These donations help to fill the gap in the budget as well as help with the special projects we do over the year that gives back to our community, like the Blessing Bags that go to Sharing & Caring Hands, and the Christmas Bags that are distributed at Peace Villa. Sponsorship forms can be picked up in the back of Church as Ascension and in the Narthex at St. Bernard. The youth of our Parishes are the future of our Church and so please prayerfully considering supporting our program and community.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/07/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	3,979.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,015.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 73,202.10
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 71,118.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (2,084.10)

Capital Improvement Offering:	155.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 4,525.00



Interested in signing up for E-Giving or want to make a one time donation? Scan here to donate to the Church of the Ascension. Thank you for your generosity!



Please Prayer for the Repose of the Soul of long time parishioner Dolores Bohlinger, whose Funeral was this Saturday, December 20th. Please keep her family in your prayers during this time.

Reminder that in the month of December we are collecting baby items that go to mother's in need of support. Item's can be placed by Mother Mary at the front of Church. Thank you for your support!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	5,300.00
Contributions 12-01 through 12-09-2025	4,078.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	76,060.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(325.18)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	178.00
Electronic Donations	254.00
Forward in Faith Total	432.00
Forward in Faith YTD	5,194.00



Interested in signing up for E-Giving or want to make a one time donation? Scan here to donate to the Church of St. Bernard. Thank you for your generosity!

Word of Life—"O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Prayer for Radical Solidarity (www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)

Mass Ministry Schedule—December 27th & 28th

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Volunteer	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteers	Kendra Michels & Jayden Michels	Marshall Panning & Isaac Schrupp
Reader	Cathleen Williams	Jean Schmitz	Rob Wickenhauser
EMHC	Curt Wilson	Kathy Kloempken	Monica Kooiman
Ushers	Tom Lano & Rick Ulrich	Eugene Dvorak & Tim George	Bob Symanitz & Leo Willems
Greeters	Pat Johnson	Volunteer	Judy Glander
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp. A: Dave & Colleen Donnay Grp. B: Tim George & Steve Lemmer	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Dec. 22 8:00 am		No Mass
Tuesday	Dec. 23 6:15 pm	ASC.	Ann Nielson †
Wednesday	Dec. 24 4:00 pm	ASC.	Living & Deceased of the Donna Meuleners Family
Wednesday	Dec. 24 6:30 pm	ST. B.	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden Family
Thursday	Dec. 25 8:00 am	ASC.	Leo Pouliot †
Thursday	Dec. 25 10:00 am	ST. B.	All Parishioners
Friday	Dec. 26	ASC.	NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 27 5:00 pm	ASC.	Living & Deceased of the Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser Family
Sunday	Dec. 28 8:00 am	ASC.	Theresa Koupal
Sunday	Dec. 28 10:00 am	ST. B.	Albert & Clara Wickenhauser †† & All Parishioners

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: By appointment.

Marriage Arrangements

The couple should contact the priest as soon as they become engaged. They must meet with the priest twice before setting a marriage date. These two meetings need to be completed 6 months before the proposed date.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Ascension: Tues. 5:45pm - 6:05pm

St. Bernard: Wed: 7:30am-7:50am

Saturday: 4:30pm—4:50pm

at parish hosting the Mass

By appointment with Father- Call 952-856-1050

Communion for Homebound

Ascension - Sue Tellers.....612-247-6881

St. Bernard - Barb Knorr.....952-484-9628

Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.



December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly ten years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks: **"Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home"** (Matthew 1:20). When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

**Bulletin copy is due by
Thursdays @ NOON
for the bulletin**

two weekends out;

St. Bernard copy must be emailed to:

bulletin@st-bernard-cologne.org
and pquinn55322@hotmail.com

Ascension copy must be emailed to:

busadmin@ascensionnyny.org.

All inserts and weekend Mass announcements can be emailed or brought to the Parish office at St. Bernard or Ascension. **These are due Thursday of the weekend needed.**

Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm

Readings for the week of Dec. 21, 2025

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 **Monday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56 **Tuesday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66 **Wednesday:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 **Thursday:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 **Friday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22 **Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 **Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23